Edibles provided to Jawans

† * 248. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned, "Jawano ko Khilaya ja raha hai mrit pashuon ka maans", which appeared in 'Nav Bharat Times', New Delhi, dated the 29th May 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a)1o (c) The Government is aware about the news-item captioned "Jawano ko Khilaya ja raha hai mrit pashuon ka maans" which appeared in Nav Bharat Times, New Delhi dated 29.5.2002.

The news report relates to an incident in Supply Depot, Delhi Cantonment, where a supplier had attempted to mix dead fowls with live birds during delivery of fowls to the depot. Only live and healthy animals/ birds are slaughtered for supply to Defence Forces. Proper sorting and segregation of the live animals/birds is carried out before slaughter. The animals are inspected by a Veterinary Officer both before and after slaughter. Thereafter, the carcasses are duly stamped fit for issue.

During inspection and segregation on 13.5.2002, the attempt of the supplier was thwarted by the vigilant Supply Depot staff. Action has been initiated to ban the firm or to remove it from the list of approved contractors of the Army Supply Corps.

Jaish-E-Mohammad activities in Uttaranchal

†*249. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Jaish-e-Mohammad and a few other terrorist outfits have started spreading its tentacles to Uttaranchal also;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government in consultation with the State Government have worked out a scheme to nab them immediately;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) th,e assistance provided/proposed to be provided to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) There is no specific information about activities of Jaish-e-Mohammad in Uttaranchal. However, the presence of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) in particular has been noticed in the recent past. Some remnats of Punjab militant groups were also active some time back.

(b) and (c) Government has adopted a well coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the activities of militants which includes strengthening of border management to check illegal cross-border activities, gearing up the intelligence machinery, close interaction between agencies of the Centre and the State Governments, neutralizing plans of militants and anti-national elements by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system etc. As a result of coordinated action, several terrorist modules have been neutralized.

Diplomatic initiatives have also been taken with various countries to enlist their support in countering the activitivies of militant groups.

32 organisations have been notified as Terrorist Organisations under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, to enable the States to take effective action.

(d) Under the Scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces, financial assistance of Rs. 5,505 crores and Rs. 8.444 crores were released to the Government of Uttaranchal during 2000-01 and 2001 -02 respectively..

Training to rural youth of Assam

* 250. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rural youth trained under vs. oi ts rural development schemes in Assam during the last three years;